



Critical Care in the Air since 1982

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Airlift Northwest launches membership program for Alaska

AirCare provides affordable high quality air medical service

JUNEAU, March 16, 2009 – Airlift Northwest now provides its AirCare program in Alaska. The service covers costs for medically necessary Airlift Northwest air ambulance transports that may not be covered by insurance or Medicare.

AirCare started in Washington state in 2006 and the membership program continues to grow each year. A decision late last year by the Alaska Division of Insurance cleared the way for Airlift Northwest to offer the program in this state.

Shelly Deering, Alaska Clinical Operations Director for Airlift Northwest, says the response to AirCare has been extremely positive.

“Many people knew we offered AirCare in Washington and were waiting for the program to come to Alaska,” she says. “We’re very pleased to offer AirCare because it not only provides a service to families, it helps to fund Airlift Northwest so we can continue to transport critically ill or injured adults or pediatric patients, pregnant mothers at risk, and victims of heart attacks or strokes.”

The Alaska membership is available at two prices -- \$79 per household for one year, or \$155 for two years. People may sign-up for AirCare at www.airliftnw.org, by calling 1-888-835-1599, or by sending an email to membership@airliftnw.org.

Lenora Henderson, Airlift Northwest Customer Service Director, says that people who purchase AirCare in either Alaska or Washington can use their membership wherever Airlift Northwest flies. “That’s good news for the many people who spend part of their time in each state,” she says.

Henderson also explains that as a member of the Association of Air Medical Membership Programs (AAMMP), AirCare benefits extend to reciprocal programs in the west based in Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, Eastern Washington and California. This means that if a person is a member of AirCare, AAMMP members in other states will honor that membership (subject to the terms of the honoring member program) when transport is medically necessary.

Airlift Northwest has operated in Alaska for more than 25 years. It’s the only program in Alaska that flies with two-nurse teams, all of whom have advanced training in critical or trauma care. This level of expertise is unique in the air medical industry and comparable to a hospital intensive care unit. Airlift Northwest is the only air ambulance service in Southeast Alaska that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Services (CAMTS), the “gold standard” in air medical transport.

Airlift Northwest is a nonprofit service founded in 1982 to provide air medical services for critically ill and injured infants, children and adults. Airlift Northwest has bases in Juneau, Alaska, and Washington state to serve the Pacific Northwest. More information is available at www.airliftnw.org.